



The General Federation of Iraqi Women



# THE IRAQI WOMAN

enjoys

**EQUALITY**

participates to

**DEVELOPMENT**

and calls for

**PEACE**

The Aims of the Decade  
For Women  
are  
Our Aims  
in  
IRAQ



“Popular mobilization and any  
actin by the people would be in-  
complete without women’s strong  
and effective participation”

*Saddam Hussein*  
President of the Republic

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## The General Federation of Iraqi Women

The General Federation of Iraqi Women is a democratic organization which represents all the women of Iraq. It is an aspect of the progressive women's movement in the Arab World and a participant to the international women's liberation movement. Established in 1969, GFIW held its first conference on the 4th of March of the same year. Ever since, the day is celebrated annually as the Iraqi Woman Day.

The GFIW aims at raising the social and educational level of the Iraqi woman, qualifying her for an effective role in the life of her society, promoting fraternal relations among Arab women and consolidating their progressive movement, supporting liberation movements and achieving the best forms of solidarity with progressive women's organizations all over the world.

The GFIW adopt multi-level policies for the achievement of its objectives. Its efforts are part of the massive efforts aiming at the development of the Iraqi society and the achievement of the full emancipation of women according to the principles of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party which hold the emancipation of women as an integral part of the general liberation of the society.



## DEVELOPMENT

# Enhances the Progress of Women

The International Decade for women coincides with the local giant development plans in Iraq. In a comprehensive drive towards progress, the Iraqi woman is called upon to participate to the establishment of the modern society. Her enthusiastic response has enhanced her active role in public life where her presence is continuously increasing on all levels.



In the rural sector, where women amount to 44 % of the total working power, the Iraqi woman is applying modern techniques of farming which make work easier and more productive.



In the rural sector, too, the men generation of educated women participates to the development of the social and economical conditions of women peasants and to the promotion of agricultural productivity. More and more women prefer to specialize in the agricultural field. The rate of women to the total number of trained specialists in agriculture amounts to 21% of vocational trainees, 29% of agrarian institutes graduates and 23% of university graduates in various agrarian branches.

The ambitious development plans in Iraq have lead to a rapid and dramatic increase in the number of women employed in industry. Women are granted equal access to all fields of work. Certain vocations which have been conventionally limited to men are witnessing an increased number of women participants, such as the textile industry where women amount to 18 % of the total number of workers and the electronic industries where women constitute 26% of the workers.

With the increase of the number of women in factories comes the increase of their active role in trade unions and vocational organizations. Women are elected to all levels of trade unions committees including executive boards both in rural and urban sites.

Co-educational training programmes are also witnessing an increase in the enrolment of women who amount to 72 % of the students of commercial training institutes, 28 % of the students agricultural institutes and 20 % of the students of technological institutes. Besides the GFIW runs extensive training programmes exclusively intended for women covering a wide range of skills in both conventional and unconventional fields.







In the professional field, the contribution of women covers a wide variety of professions. They now account for 46% of teachers, 29% of doctors, 46% of dentists, 70% of pharmacists, 15% of accountants and 21% of civil servants.



## EQUALITY

### A Right Enjoyed by Iraqi Women

Equality between men and women in Iraq is granted by the Iraqi Constitution which stipulates that all Iraqi citizens are equal before the law irrespective of their sex, race, language, socia

background and religion. Labour Laws and Civil Service Statutes give women equal opportunities of employment with men, guaranteeing them equal pay, equal allowances and equal chances of promotion.



Iraqi women enjoy their right both as voters and candidates to the National Assembly. Women voters amounted to 45 % of the total number of voters in the general elections of 1980. The present assembly has 36 women members but of the total 250 seats.





In education, full equality on the primary school level has been granted by the Law of Obligatory Education of the year 1978. The Law makes it obligatory for all Iraqi boys and girls in school age to attend school.

On other educational levels, girls are showing an increased enthusiasm to pursue their education. Females account for 34% of secondary school students, 31% of vocational schools students, 58% of teachers' institutes students and 31% of university students.

While all opportunities of full equality in education are enjoyed by the new generation of women, the older generation has also been given their share in the educational drive. A country-wide anti-illiteracy campaign was started in 1978 to eradicate illiteracy among all Iraqi citizens between 15 and 45 years of age. The GFIW has been assisting in the official and massive efforts employed in the campaign which has so far succeeded in reducing the rate of illiterate women from 69 to 22% which is the rate of women above the stated age covered by the campaign.

# EQUALITY

## Within The Family Circle

A number of new legislations and a successive series of amendments to old ones have introduced a radical change to the legal position of women within the family circle. These legislations aimed at removing those legal obstacles which used to affect woman's position within the family circle. In accordance with the provisions of the new legislations women are given the right to divorce in certain cases, the custody of children in the case of separation and the right of guardianship in the absence of the father. The law also prohibits parents or anyone else from forcing girls into unwanted marriages or from preventing marriage between two adults.



Consequently, the position of women within the family circle has been greatly improved. Love, sympathy and harmony are characteristics of the Iraqi family. The new social and economical relations which have developed in the years of revolutionary changes in Iraq are positively reflected on family relations. The Iraqi family is enjoying a happy atmosphere of co-operation and mutual responsibility shared by both men and women members.

Motherhood should always be the source of women's happiness and enjoyment. Working mothers are granted certain privileges that ensure their own welfare as well as that of their infants, such as a 72 day paid leave at child birth and a six-month half-paid maternity leave to be taken at any time between the birth of the child and its fifth birthday.

Nurseries are opened everywhere in Iraq by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs the GFIW, state factories and departments employing a considerable number of women and the private sector. The number of nurseries has doubled 45 times between the years 1975 and 1983.

Specialized clinics and centres for mother and child care are spread all over Iraq. The GFIW has its own maternity centres and it also contributes to the general effort exerted by the Ministry of Health and a number of medical and social societies aiming at securing better health services for mother and child. Maternity hospitals are established in all Iraqi cities and Health education, sanitation, inoculation and other health services are offered at home in villages and far-off sites by specially trained teams.





# PEACE is a Prerequisite for Progress

The achievements of the Iraqi women have been an integral part of the general achievements of the Iraqi people in the fields of development and progress lead by a progressive and revolutionary regime and guided by constructive national principles.



The threat imposed by the Iranian aggression launched against our country for the last five years endangers the achievements of Iraqi women; disturbing their peace, threatening the safety of their families and diverting all efforts which have been recruited for the achievement of development and progress.



The greatest contribution of Iraqi women to the battle of self-defence has been achieved on the home front. In the absence of men who have been summoned to defend our frontiers against the successive attempts of jiranian invasion, women are undertaking the responsibility of turning the wheel of production and ensuring the implementation of the development plans.

Within the ranks of the Popular Army, women are being trained on all defensive weapons that help them secure their own and their homeland's safety.



Thousands of women have volunteered as nurses in military hospitals. In order to give them all the honour of this contribution, they are divided into successive groups that follow each other in the task of nursing the wounded and offering them all due sympathy and care.



Other thousands of women have volunteered for civil defence. They are trained on such tasks as evacuating the injured, putting down fire and first aid. Their presence also helps to maintain order and keep an atmosphere of stability in those areas which suffer the enemy's bombing and shelling.

In order to prevent the Iranian aggression from causing the potentialities of the Iraqi woman to be wasted and her progress to be stopped or diverted, the women of Iraq demand an instant end to the Iranian aggression and they call upon all the women of the world to voice their support of Iraqi peace initiatives which are being continuously rejected by the Iranian regime

The GFIW which plays a leading and active role in the process of women's emancipation in Iraq, undertakes the responsibility of voicing out the Iraqi woman's appeal for peace. It has been organizing international meetings on various levels aiming at explaining Iraq's attitude towards the Iranian aggression and pointing out the dangerous hazards of that aggression. The GFIW now calls upon the international woman conscience to support the Iraqi woman in her condemnation of the Iranian aggression and her appeal for peace.





Iraqi women consider their peace and progress as an integral part of the peace and progress of all the women of the world. Represented by the GFIW, the Iraqi woman has contributed to the reinforcement of freindly relations between all organizations and between groups working for the emancipation of women all over the world. She extends her love and offers her full support to all the women who struggle for the achievement of equality, development and peace.



**EQUALITY**



**DEVELOPMENT**

**PEACE**

**THE DECADE FOR WOMEN  
TEN YEARS OF  
STEADY PROGRESS  
FOR THE  
IRAQI WOMAN**